

Message Text

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13-11

ORIGIN INR-07

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NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

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TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM

1. EGYPT. CAIRO RADIO ON FEBRUARY 27 CITES PRESIDENT SADAT AS SAYING THAT THERE IS NOW NO ROOM FOR THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY SINCE HE IS CURRENTLY CONCERNED WITH A FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT, DESPITE EGYPT'S DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SPARE PARTS FOR ITS ARMAMENTS FROM THE USSR, ITS DIVERSIFICATION EFFORTS HAVE ENABLED IT TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE. EGYPT, HE SAID, DOES NOT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US ARMS BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES. (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. EGYPT'S NAVAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MISSILE PATROL BOATS, SUBMARINES, AND FRIGATES, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE OF THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE IN CAIRO. THE UK PROBABLY WILL BE THE
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PRIMARY SUPPLIER OF THE NEW CRAFT. FUNDING WILL PROBABLY

HAVE TO COME PRIMARILY FROM OIL-RICH ARAB STATES,
PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA. (SECRET NOFORN)

3. LEBANON. POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE NOT DECIDED HOW TO
RECONSTITUTE THE LEBANESE ARMY, BUT THE ARMY STAFF IS
REPORTEDLY NOW STUDYING A PLAN TO CONSOLIDATE ITS
STRUCTURE. DURING THE RECENT FIGHTING OVERALL STRENGTH

FELL FROM 17,300 TO AN ESTIMATED 14,000. THE
PRESIDENT IS SAID TO HAVE ORDERED IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONSCRIPTION LAW, WITH THE FIRST CALL-UP OF 6,000
MEN TO OCCUR IN APRIL OR MAY, AND THE CONSCRIPTS SHOULD
HELP COMPENSATE FOR THE DECREASE, AS WELL AS THE LOSS
OF MEN THROUGH NORMAL ATTRITION. (CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN)

4. LEBANESE TROOPS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN BY THE
ARMISTICE COMMISSION TO ASSIST PALESTINIAN LIBERATION
ARMY FORCES IN QUELLING A RECENT OUTBREAK OF LAWLESSNESS
IN BEIRUT. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT PLA UNITS WILL
ALSO BE MOVED INTO TRIPOLI FOLLOWING A SPATE OF
ROBBERIES THERE. BEIRUT PAPERS ATTRIBUTE THE RECENT
CRIME WAVE TO DELAYS IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERN-
MENT. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, CHIEF LEFTIST LEADER KAMAL
JUMBLATT, UNDER STRONG SYRIAN PRESSURE, REPORTEDLY HAS
PRIVATELY AGREED TO TAKE PART IN A COALITION CABINET.
HIS ACCEPTANCE MAY CLEAR THE WAY FOR AN EARLY ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BEGIN IMPLEMENTING
THE SYRIAN-SPONSORED PEACE SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED
EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE EXTENT OF LEFTIST PARTICIPATION
HAS BEEN A MAJOR STICKING POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS,
AS CHRISTIANS FEAR A CLOSE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE
PALESTINIANS AND THE LEBANESE FAR LEFT AND ARE IN-
CREASINGLY WORRIED THAT SYRIA WILL EVENTUALLY RELAX
ITS TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD BOTH GROUPS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. JORDAN-ISRAEL. JORDAN, ISRAEL, AND THE PLO ARE
TAKING STEPS TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE WEST BANK
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12.

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EACH IS SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN ITS POLITICAL POSITION
IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
DISPOSITION OF THE BITTERLY CONTESTED AREA.

7. IN A MAJOR REVERSAL OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION OF
ASKING WEST BANKERS TO BOYCOTT SUCH ELECTIONS, THE PLO
HAS APPARENTLY INSTRUCTED ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS
TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. KING

HUSAYN IS ALSO TAKING A STRONG INTEREST IN THE ELECTIONS, DESPITE HIS ACQUIESCENCE IN THE ACTION OF THE 1974 ARAB SUMMIT PROCLAIMING THE PLO AS THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

8. PRIME MINISTER RABIN MAY HOPE TO USE THE ELECTIONS AS A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE THORNY PROBLEM OF PLO PARTICIPATION AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE RECENTLY INDICATED THAT PRO-PLO LEADERS ELECTED TO MUNICIPAL

COUNCILS MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN A JOINT JORDANIAN-WEST BANK DELEGATION TO GENEVA. (CONFIDENTIAL)

9. ISRAEL. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH TELEVISION ON FEBRUARY 27, PROMINENT POLITICAL FIGURE AND FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN SAID THAT THE US IS NO LONGER THE "WORLD'S POLICEMAN" AND ISRAEL MUST PREPARE TO DEFEND ITSELF. HE ADDED THAT ISRAELI PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE THE OPTION OF HAVING NUCLEAR ARMS WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN CONTROL, INDICATING THAT ISRAEL IS NOW CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING ATOMIC BOMBS. INGERSOLL

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